

Cathy Noh

From: Cathy Noh [cathy.noh@saylorcompany.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 02, 2010 9:52 AM
Subject: Issues Points Memo – Abkhazia is a Growing Tourist Destination
Attachments: Issues Points Memo Vol 2 Edition 3 RA- Abkhazia is a growing tourist destination.pdf

Please consider the attached Issues Points on Abkhazia's growing tourism industry and feel free to contact me if you need more information on Abkhazia or wish to travel there.

Best regards,

Steve

SAYLOR COMPANY
PUBLIC RELATIONS COUNSEL
Steven Ellis
Principal
+1 202.715.1448 - Office
+1 202.621.4076 - Mobile
steven.ellis@saylorcompany.com

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PUBLIC RELATIONS COUNSEL 2010 SEP -3 AM 8:28

From: Steven Ellis, Saylor Company
Subject: Issues Points Memo, Abkhazia, a Growing Tourist Destination, Vol. 2, Edition 3, RA
Date: September 2, 2010

Please consider the excerpts from a piece posted by AOL news on August 30 about visiting Abkhazia. The full article is at this link: <http://www.aolnews.com/world/article/contested-abkhazia-offers-tourism-bargain/19613446>

If you need further information about Abkhazia or would like to visit there, please contact me at +1.202.715.1448 or at steven.ellis@saylorcompany.com

- "...Russian tourists dressed in a colorful array of sequined bikinis and tiny Speedos are spending their summer holidays in record numbers in Abkhazia, the bullet-riddled, semi-independent territory between Georgia and Russia" ...
- "...Many have traveled from Moscow or St. Petersburg, or on day trips from Sochi, to ride inflatable banana-shaped boats, lie on the Black Sea beaches and snatch up souvenir T-shirts that wryly celebrate the geopolitical limbo of their holiday getaway." Abkhazia, Country of the Future!" one popular T-shirt reads..."
- "...Abkhazia is a breakaway region about twice the size of Rhode Island, claimed by Georgia but recognized as an independent nation by Russia and a handful of other countries. The budding tourism industry in Abkhazia, which makes up almost a quarter of the fledgling economy, is considered a vital foundation for the quasi-state's economic and political development..."
- "...In 2009, Abkhazia hosted an estimated 800,000 visitors, and this year that number is expected to top a million, according to the Abkhaz Ministry of Tourism..."
"It's a major sector of the economy and an industry that we will continue to rely on as we develop," said Abkhaz Minister of Economy Kristina Ozgan. "Growing tourism is definitely a priority for us."
- "...The importance of Russia's recognition of Abkhazia can't be understated," said Abkhaz Foreign Minister Maxim Gundjia. "For the first time in 17 years, we have security, investment, a growing economy." "...We are not worried about a war starting tomorrow. That changes everything." ..."
- "...Abkhazia is different from what many people hear. It's peaceful and beautiful'..."
- "...as that souvenir T-shirt -- 'Abkhazia, Country of the Future!' -- perhaps suggests, some Abkhaz officials regard the influx of tourism as a potential way for Abkhazia to take its message to the world..."